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A tempest in an ashtray Tuesday's Glendale...

July 11, 2005

A tempest in

an ashtray

Tuesday's Glendale City Council meeting was most entertaining, especially the part about smoking in parks. Boy, oh boy! What a ponderous problem. Now we, the taxpayers, may have to hire a special "smoking enforcer" to walk about our parks with a tape measure to make certain no smokers are closer than 25 feet from nonsmokers and

children. I wonder, will the enforcer carry a firearm?

The Chess Park, in particular, was discussed in detail. I think it was decided that if you are seated at one of the cement benches (because they can't be moved), you can't smoke. But if you are walking through the park from the parking garage to Brand Boulevard, you can smoke. But no mention was made of how fast the smoker must walk. Must he sprint? Is it OK if he ambles? Can he stop for a few seconds to "light up?" This is important stuff.

Councilman Bob Yousefian, however, was concerned about the taxpaying residents who smoke. Although he, himself, does not smoke, he suggested these smokers have rights, too.

Well, guys. I have the solution to this horrendous problem. Let's pass an ordinance that smokers can smoke in parks on dates of the week that can be divided by three with nothing left over. That means smokers can have the parks on the third, sixth, ninth, 12th, and so on, up to the 30th of each month. The nonsmokers get it the rest of the time. That gives smokers 10 days of freedom each month and allows nonsmokers to enjoy the fresh air for about 20 days.

What do you think?

SHEILA FARRELL MURRAY

Glendale

Total smoking ban

the healthy choice

Yes, regarding "Majority of council favors smoking ban,"

Recommend 0

Wednesday, about banning smoking in public parks and other recreational areas. Consider smoking's parallel: alcohol. Consumption is legal for persons 21 years of age and older, but it is not legal in public areas, i.e. parks and other recreational areas. Further, while alcohol can affect the social behavior and judgment of its partaker(s) and any non-partaker(s) within said vicinity, smoking does pollute the air quality of nonsmokers within said vicinity. Indeed, at worse, their smoke can pollute nonsmokers' lungs with second-hand smoke; at "best," it can be an offensive, lingering odor in an outdoor area of otherwise fresh air.

Yes, I am an ex-smoker. I am an ex-smoker who asked, "Do you mind if I smoke?" back before it was a social norm (approximately 1960 to 1990), because I knew then what is popular knowledge now: smoking is

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